

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:331

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2011

INFRASTRUCTURE IN METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Gohain Shri Rajen;Singh Shri Dhananjay

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched any scheme to upgrade the working of the scientists engaged in weather research and forecasting;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government feels that the existing infrastructure provided for the purpose is not adequate;
- (d) if so, the measures proposed by the Government to upgrade the infrastructure of the India Meteorological Department;
- (e) whether the manpower engaged for the work has not acquired the required skill; and
- (f) if so, whether the Government proposes to take steps for higher training of the scientists of the department and the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH)

a) – f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN REPLY TO (A) TO (F) OF STARRED QUESTION No. 331 REGARDING "INFRASTRUCTURE IN METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT" TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2011.

(a) No exclusive scheme has been launched Madam. However, the Flexible Complementing Scheme (FCS) has been implemented for the scientific services including those engaged in weather research and forecasting.

FCS implementation was based on the Third Central Pay Commission Recommendations of 1973 that allows award of promotion from one grade to another after a prescribed period of service for scientists of proven merit and ability irrespective of the availability of any vacancy. The FCS provisions have been amended from time to time by the Government following the recommendations of the subsequent pay commissions. Recently, Government has modified FCS for Scientists based on the recommendations of the 6th Central Pay Commission in September, 2010.

However, anomalies, what so ever existed, in the implementation of the FCS across the institutions of the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO) of the Ministry have been removed and are now made totally uniform.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Madam. However, Government feels that the upgradation of the observational, high end computing, communication, forecast/warning dissemination infrastructure should become a continuous process by which the state-of-the-art science and technology tools can be made accessible to the scientists engaged in weather research and forecasting for enhancing the service quality.

During the XI plan, phase-I of the modernization programme of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) is implemented by the Government with an allocated grant of Rs. 920 crores.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) With the commissioning of the state-of-the-art observing, monitoring/early warning and data visualization/information processing and communication technologies under the Phase-I of the modernization of IMD, several manual operations have been fully automated. All the manpower, that was engaged earlier for such manual operations, have been provided due orientation, training and skill development opportunities not only to attain appropriate operating skills of advanced technological platforms but also contribute efficiently to the quality enhancement through customization of sector specific warning and forecasting services.

(f) Despite the above, as per the needs of the various R & D initiatives, higher level training opportunities are being provided

appropriately to scientists of ESSO under various bilateral and multi-lateral technical cooperation arrangements.